#### **SPECIFICATION**

#### 1. Title of the Device

ELECTRICALLY CONDUCTIVE SHEET WITH GAS INTERCEPTION PROPERTY

#### 2. Utility Model Claim

(1) An electrically conductive sheet with gas interception property, comprising carbon paper or carbon cloth impregnated with an electrically conductive fluorocarbon resin, and an electrically conductive fluorocarbon resin film having a periphery of larger dimensions than those of said carbon paper or carbon cloth on which said resin film is laminated, characterized in that the peripheral portion of said film is folded so that it covers said periphery of said carbon paper or carbon cloth.

#### 3. Detailed Description of the Device

The present device relates to an electrically conductive sheet with gas interception property.

In a fuel cell, mutual single cells are electrically connected in series and diaphragms are

required for intercepting the fuel gas between the mutual single cells; in addition to gas interception property and electrical conductivity, it is required for the diaphragm to have such properties as chemical resistance to an electrolyte matrix, heat resistance, mechanical strength and the like.

A metal plate or a carbon plate has been conventionally used for the diaphragm, but there is a disadvantage that the metal plate is inferior in chemical resistance, or a specific plate having an excellent chemical resistance is expensive, and there is a disadvantage that the carbon plate is inferior in the mechanical strength (cracked readily).

The electrically conductive sheet with gas interception property in accordance with the present device can provide an excellent diaphragm in any one of the above properties, and has a constitution characterized in that carbon paper or carbon cloth impregnated with an electrically conductive fluorocarbon resin is laminated with an electrically conductive fluorocarbon resin film having a periphery of larger dimensions than those of the carbon paper or carbon cloth, and the peripheral portion of the film is folded in a way

that it covers the periphery of the carbon paper or carbon cloth.

The present device is described by way of the drawings as below:

Fig.1A shows a top view of the sheet of the present device, and Fig.1B shows a sectional view along the line b-b in Fig.1A, respectively.

In Fig.1A and Fig.1B, 1 designates carbon paper or carbon cloth impregnated with an electrically conductive fluorocarbon resin (hereinafter, referred to as a carbon cloth impregnated with an electrically conductive fluorocarbon resin) obtained by impregnating carbon paper or carbon cloth with an electrically conductive fluorocarbon resin dispersion and sintering the impregnated dispersion. 2 designates an electrically conductive fluorocarbon resin film with a periphery of larger dimensions than the carbon cloth 1 impregnated with an electrically conductive fluorocarbon resin; the resin film 2 is laminated with the above carbon cloth 1 impregnated with an electrically conducive fluorocarbon resin at one surface and the peripheral portion 21 of the film is folded in a way that it covers the periphery of the carbon cloth 1 impregnated with an electrically

conductive fluorocarbon resin. 3 denotes also carbon cloth impregnated with an electrically conductive fluorocarbon resin, which is laminated on the other surface of the electrically conductive fluorocarbon resin film 2.

The contact surfaces of the electrically conductive fluorocarbon resin film 2 with the carbon cloths 1 and 3, which are both impregnated with an electrically conductive fluorocarbon resin, are integrally adhered through thermal fusion respectively.

The above carbon cloth is made by weaving a carbon fiber, and the carbon paper is obtained by carding a carbon fiber to form a sheet of paper; commercially available products of them include, for example, as expressed by trade names, Toreca manufactured by Toray Industries, Inc., CE30 or CXO-100 manufactured by UNITIKA, Ltd., SH35 manufactured by NIPPON CARBON CO., LTD., or Besphite manufactured by Toho Rayon Co., Ltd.

As the electrically conductive fluorocarbon resin dispersion for impregnating the carbon paper, an aqueous dispersion is used containing a powder of fluorocarbon resin such as polytetrafluoroethylene (hereinafter referred to as PTFE), tetrafluoroethylene-

hexafluoropropylene copolymer (hereinafter referred to as FEP) and the like, in which an electrically conductive powder such as carbon, graphite and the like are dispersed. The formulating ratio of the fluorocarbon resin powder and the electrically conductive powder in the dispersion is determined depending on the kind, particle size and the like of the fluorocarbon resin powder or the electrically conductive powder, but usually 80 to 200 parts by weight of the electrically conductive powder is formulated to 100 parts by weight of the fluorocarbon resin powder. Further, it is preferable in view of impregnation of the dispersion in the carbon paper that the concentration of solid matter in the dispersion is adjusted to about 20 to 50% by weight.

Practically, a film of from about 30 to  $100\,\mu$  in thickness and having a volume resistance of  $100\,\Omega$  cm or less is used as the electrically conductive fluorocarbon resin film. The fluorocarbon resin for making the film is not specifically limited, and there can be used PTFE, FEP, an ethylene-tetrafluoroethylene copolymer, a tetrafluoroethylene-perfluoroalkyl vinyl ether copolymer, and the like. Any of a product prior to calcination or a calcinated product can be used as the electrically

conductive fluorocarbon resin film; however, in the case when a fluorocarbon resin film which has not been calcinated is used, it is preferable that the fluorocarbon resin film is subjected to calcination either during or after its lamination with carbon paper, as it will provide an electrically conductive sheet with high degree of mechanical strength.

When the electrically conductive sheet shown in the above-mentioned Fig.1A and Fig.1B is brought in contactwith an electrode plate of a fuel single cell using the folded face 20 of the electrically conductive fluorocarbon resin film 2 as a seal face (fusion adhesion seal), even if the carbon cloth 1 impregnated with an electrically conductive fluorocarbon resin has a gas permeability to a certain degree, because the cloth 1 is covered by the electrically conductive fluorocarbon resin film 2 in both of the thickness direction and the surface direction, the fuel gas of the single cell can be surely intercepted due to the excellent gas interception property of the film 2. Moreover, since the cloths impregnated with an electrically conductive resin, which are obtained by impregnating carbon cloths 1 and 3 with an electrically conductive resin, are excellent in

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electrical conductivity, an excellent electrical conductivity is attained in the thickness direction of the whole of the electrically conductive sheet, even if the electrically conductive fluorocarbon resin film is not sufficiently high in electrical conductivity.

Consequently electrical connection between single cells can be accomplished with remarkably low resistance.

In addition, it is needles to say that chemical resistance, thermal resistance and mechanical strength are excellent.

Fig. 2 shows another Embodiment of the present device where bi-directional gas interception (indicated by arrows N and S) is provided, while in the first Embodiment shown in Fig.1, a single directional gas interception property is provided (indicated by arrow S in Fig.1). In Fig.2, the electrically conductive fluorocarbon resin films are denoted by 2 and 2, and the carbon cloths impregnated with an electrically conductive fluorocarbon resin are denoted by 1 and 1, respectively.

In Figs. 1A and 1B and Fig.2, the ratio of total thickness of the electrically conductive fluorocarbon resin films to total of the carbon cloths impregnated with an electrically conductive fluorocarbon resin is

usually from 10:1 to 3:1.

The present device is described in more detail by way of preferred Examples.

#### Examples

Carbon paper of 0.3 mm in thickness (Trade Name "Besphite" manufactured by Toho Rayon Co., Ltd.) was immersed into an aqueous dispersion (solid matter content 30% by weight) prepared by formulating 150 parts by weight of carbon powder to 100 parts by weight of uncalcinated PTFE powder, then the carbon paper was drawn out after to which the dispersion had been impregnated and dried for 5 minutes at room temperature.

Then the carbon paper is heated for 30 minutes at 100% for removal of water.

Then PTFE is calcinated for 5 minutes at  $390^{\circ}$ C and thus carbon paper impregnated with an electrically conductive fluorocarbon resin was obtained.

Apart from the above, 150 parts by weight of carbon was formulated to 100 parts by weight of un-calcinated PTFE powder, and the resultant was molded into a film and heated at 390 $^{\circ}$ C for calcinations, thereby an electrically conductive fluorocarbon resin film of 80 $\mu$  in thickness

is obtained.

Both the length and width of the electrically conductive fluorocarbon resin film were made to be 10 mm larger than those of the carbon paper impregnated with an electrically conductive fluorocarbon resin.

The carbon paper impregnated with an electrically conductive fluorocarbon resin was laminated with the electrically conductive fluorocarbon resin film by means of a hot press at  $390^{\circ}$ C in such a way as shown in Figs.

1A and 1B and then was subjected to a folding process and maintained under the pressure of 25 kg/cm² for 30 minutes.

The volume resistance of the electrically conductive sheet thus obtained was measured and the result was 0.3  $\Omega$ -cm. In addition, Gas interception is measured and no gas permeation is observed.

Herein, the volume resistance was measured according to ASTM 257 and gas interception was measured using a gas permeation testing equipment (Rika Seiki Kogyo Co. Ltd., Gas Permeation Measuring Equipment Single A Type).

4. Brief Description of the Drawings

Fig.1A is an explanatory top view showing an

electrically conductive sheet material of the present device, Fig.1B is an explanatory cross-sectional view taken along line b-b in Fig.1A, and Fig.2 is an explanatory cross-sectional view showing another embodiment of the present device.

In the Figs., the numeral 1 denotes carbon cloth impregnated with an electrically conductive fluorocarbon resin, the numeral 2 denotes an electrically conductive fluorocarbon resin film, and the numeral 21 denotes a peripheral portion of the film.

1. 考案の名称

ガス遮断性を有学る導電性シート

- 実用新案登録請求の範囲
  - (1) 導電性フツ素樹脂を含浸したカーポンペ パ又はカーボンクロスにこれよりも周囲寸法の 大なる導電性フッ素樹脂フィルムを積層し、上 記カーボンペーパ又はカーボンクロスの周囲に 上記フイルムの周縁部を折曲により被覆したこ とを特徴とするガス遮断性を有する導電性シャ
- 考案の詳細な説明

本考案はガス遮断性を有する導電性シートに 関するものである。

燃料電池においては、単電池相互を直列に電 気的に導通すると共に単電池相互間における燃 料ガスを遮断するための隔膜が必要であり、 の隔膜にはガス遮断性、遊電性の他、電解質マ トリックスに対する耐薬品性、耐熱性、機械的 一強度等が要求される。

1人のはないということの 大大きな 行きまた 従来、上記隔膜に金属板又はカーボン板を使 用しているが、金属板においては耐薬品性に劣 り、又は耐薬品性に秀れた特殊なものでは高価 であるといつた不利があり、カーポン板におい ては機械的強度に劣る(割れ易い)といつた不 利がある。

本考案に係るガス遮断性を有する遊電性シー トは、上記何れの特性にも秀れた隔膜を供し得 るものであり√導電性フツ素樹脂を含浸したカ - ポンペーパ又はカーポンクロスにこれよりも 周囲寸法の大なる導電性フツ素樹脂フイルムを 稚 層 し、 上 記 カーポンペーパ 又 は カーポンクロ スの周囲に上記フイルムの周縁部を折曲により 被覆したことを特徴とする構成である。

以下、図面により本考案を説明する。

第1図Aは本考案シートの上面図を、第1図 B は第1図A における b - b 断面をそれぞれ示 している。

第1図A並びに第1図Bにおいて、1はカー ポンペーパ又はカーポンクロスに薄電性フッ素

この導電性フツ素樹脂フイルム2と導電性フツ素樹脂含浸カーポンクロス1.3との接触面は熱融着により一体化してある。

上記のカーボンクロスはカーボン繊維を織つたものであり、カーボンペーパは、カーボン繊維を紙状に抄いて得られるもので、市販品としては例えば東レ社製商品名トレカ、ユニチカ社

## 公開実用 昭和60—60871

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製商品名 C E 3 O或いは C X O -1 O O 、日本カーポン社製商品名 S H 3 5 、東邦レーヨン社製商品名ペスファイト等を挙げることができる。

カーボンベージョンとしてはボナーシートレンはボナーシートランとしてはボナーシートラートレンカーのあったのでは、カーボンカーが、アーリーが、アーリーが、アーリーが、アーリーが、アージーが、アー

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上記第1図A並びに第1図Bにより示す対応性シートを導電性フツ素樹脂フィルム2の折返をしているをシール面(熱融着シール)として燃料単電池の極板に当接する場合、消電性フツ性素樹脂含浸力ーポンクロス1を厚み方向であるから、このフィルム2の参れるで覆つてあるから、このフィルム2の参れ

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たガス遮断性のために、単電池の燃料ガスを確実に遮断できる。又、導電性フッ素樹脂フィルム2の導電性がそれほど高くなくても、導電性樹脂を合表してなる導電性樹脂含表クロスの導電性が着しく高いから、導電性シート全体の厚み方向の導電性を極めて高くでき、単電池間を著しく低抵抗で導通できる。

更に、耐薬品性、耐熱性、機械的強度に秀れていることは勿論である。

第2図は本考案の別実施例を示しており、第1図に示した実施例が一方向(第1図のSで示す)のガス遮断性を有するのに対し、両方向(S並びにNで示す)のガス遮断性を備えている。第2図において、2,2は導電性フツ素樹脂フイルムを、1,1は導電性フツ素樹脂フィルムを、1,1は導電性フツ素樹脂含浸カーボンクロスをそれぞれ示している。

第1図A,B並びに第2図において、導電性フツ素樹脂フイルムの総厚みと導電性フツ素樹脂含浸カーポンクロスの総厚みとの比は、通常

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10:1~3:1である。

以下、実施例により本考案を更に詳細に説明する。

#### 実 施 例

未焼成のPTFE粉末100重量部に対しカーボン粉末150重量部を配合した水性デイスパージョン(固形分濃度30重量%)中に厚さ0.3 mmのカーボンペーパ(東邦レーヨン社製商品名ペスファイト)を浸漬し、カーボンペーパにデイスパージョンを含浸せしめて引き上げ、室温で5分間風乾する。

次に、100°Cの温度で30分間加熱し水分を除去する。

その後、390°Cの温度で5分間加熱することによりPTFEを焼成し、導電性フッ素樹脂含浸カーボンベーバを得る。

一方、これとは別に未焼成PTFB粉末100瓜 量部に対し、カーポン150重量部を配合して、 フイルム状に成形し、更に390℃に加熱して焼 成し、厚さ80μの導電性フツ素樹脂フイルム

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を得る。

この導電性フツ素樹脂フイルムの縦巾並びに 横巾とも上記導電性フツ素樹脂含浸カーボンペーパに較べて10 mm大としてある。

この導電性フッ素樹脂含浸カーボンベーバ並びに導電性フッ素樹脂フイルムを 390℃のホットプレスを用い第1図 A 並びに第1図 B に示すように積層し、折曲加工を行い、圧力 2 5 kg/cm² にて 3 0 分間保持した。

このようにして得た導電性シートの体積抵抗を測定したところ 0.3 Ω-α であつた。又、ガス遮断性を測定したところガス透過は認められなかつた。

なお、体積抵抗はASTM257により測定し、ガス遮断性はガス透過試験機(理化精機工業社製、気体透過測定装置単式A型)により測定した。

### 4. 図面の簡単な説明

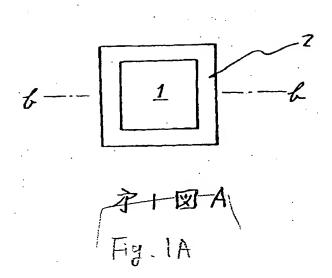
第1図Aは本考案に係る導電性シートを示す 上面説明図、第1図Bは第1図Aにおけるbb 断面説明図、第2図は本考案の別実施例を示す断面説明図である。

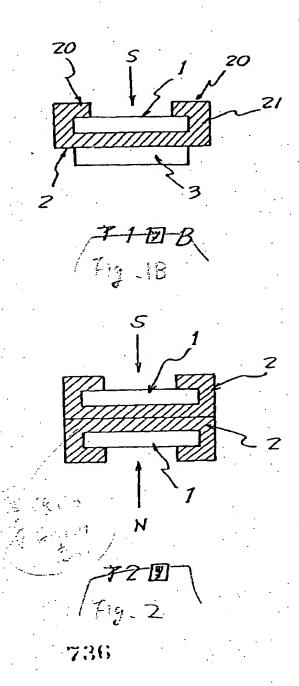
図において、1は導電性フツ素樹脂含浸カーポンクロス、2は導電性フツ素樹脂フイルム、21はフイルム周縁部である。

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实际

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实開60-13-1271 代理人 弁理士 清 水 矣